

GRIMMITT, J. C.

INTERVIEW

#7589

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Lula AustinReport made on (date) September 16 1937Name J. C. Grimmitt (White)Post Office Address Durant, OklahomaResidence address (or location) South 1st, StreetDATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 7 Year 1681Place of birth Arkansas.

Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Give a full or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Lula Austin
Interviewer
September 16, 1937

Interview with J. C. Grimmer
Durant, Oklahoma.

I came with parents from Arkansas to the Indian Territory, in 1870, and settled at Sculleyville. My parents farmed, raising mostly corn. Tom Edwards, an Englishman, ran the post office, which was called Red Oak.

When I was sixteen years old I left home and went to work for Robert Nail, working there thirteen years. In roundup time all the cattle owners would go together and corral the cattle on the prairie, every party cutting their cattle out and letting those that did not belong to them go. We were usually out two weeks; had our chuck wagons and provisions with us.

John Vails used to ride horseback and sometimes in sulkies carrying the mail from Fort Smith to Sherman. It would take him six days to make the round trip, changing horses three times.

I have helped drive cattle across Red River during the big drives on the Chisholm trail. Many cattle were drowned; they would float down the river bloated up like big logs.

I was with Mr. Robert Nail one day when he sold a bunch of cattle to a German butcher from Denison, Texas, who paid

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him \$2,700.00 in twenty dollar gold pieces. He placed some of the gold in a small keg and buried it in his orchard under a peach tree and some of it he kept in Caddo with Mr. Ainsworth who operated a mercantile store there.

The Comanche and Cheyenne Indians came to Caddo once a month in ox wagons and on horseback for their rations. They would kill a beef and have a war dance. During the dance they would feast on the beef, eating it raw from the carcass, all carried long knives. I was in a store in Caddo one day when a bunch came in. I was scared to death, and tried to get out, but they were all around me so I had to pretend I wasn't afraid. They never bothered you if you let them alone.

I was in a little church where a Mr. Pucket, a school teacher, was teaching Sunday School. Dave Fulsom came in and told him he was going to kill him for talking about him. Mr. Pucket said, "Well, let's go outside away from the children." They left on their horses, going a distance from the house and Dave shot him. Dave was not prosecuted, as his money carried him through.